IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of authenticating the identity of a user, the method
comprising:

a. placing~~, in sequence,~~ each of a plurality of parts of the user's body on a biometric contact sensor at a sensing position;

b. obtaining from the sensor a data set of biometric contact characteristics for each of the plurality of body parts;

c. comparing each data set with authentic versions stored in a database;

d. determining whether each of the plurality of parts of the user's body are placed on the biometric contact sensor at a sensing position within a predetermined period of time of one another;

e. determining whether the plurality of parts of the user's body were placed on the biometric contact sensor at the sensing position in a sequence when it is determined that the data sets satisfactorily match the corresponding authentic versions and the plurality of parts of the user's body are placed on the biometric sensor within the predetermined period of time of one another, wherein the sequence randomly changes after each authentication of the identity of the user; and

~~e~~f. issuing an authentication signal when it is determined that the plurality of parts of the user's body are placed on the biometric contact sensor at the sensing position in the sequence ~~if the data sets satisfactorily match the corresponding authentic versions and the plurality of parts of the user's body are placed on the biometric sensor within the predetermined period of time of one another~~.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the body parts are the user's
fingertips and the biometric contact sensor is a fingerprint sensor.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the data sets are compared with the authentic versions using a minutiae based algorithm.

6. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the data sets are compared with the authentic versions using a correlation based algorithm.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ for authenticating a user, the apparatus comprising a fingerprint sensor operable to sensing only one fingerprint at a time, and a processor and a database adapted to perform ~~a~~ the method according to claim 1.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 7, wherein the fingerprint sensor is a capacitive sensor.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 7, wherein the fingerprint sensor is an optical sensor.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 7, wherein the fingerprint sensor is a thermal sensor.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to any of claim 7, further comprising a data input device.

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 1 I, wherein the data input device is a keypad.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 11, wherein the data input device is a smart card reader.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of authenticating the identity of a user, the method
comprising:

a. obtaining a sequence of data sets of biometric characteristics of the user, each data

set relating to one of a plurality of parts of the user's body;

b. comparing each data set with authentic versions stored in a database;

c. monitoring the order in which the sequence of data sets was obtained;

d. determining whether the ~~sequence of~~ data sets is obtained within a predetermined period of time of one another;

e. determining whether the sequence of data sets are in a specified order when it is determined that the data sets satisfactorily match the corresponding authentic versions and the data sets are obtained within the predetermined period of time of one another, wherein the specified order changes after each authentication of the identity of the user; and

e~~f~~. issuing an authentication signal when it is determined that the sequence of the data sets are in the specified order ~~if the data sets satisfactorily match the corresponding authentic versions, the sequence of data sets was obtained in a predetermined order, and the sequence of data sets was obtained within the predetermined period of time of one another~~.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 14, wherein at least one of the plurality of parts of the user's body is a fingertip.

16. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 14, wherein at least one of the plurality of parts of the user's body is a retina.

17. (Currently Amended) A The method according to any of claim 14, wherein at least one of the plurality of parts of the user's body is the user's face.